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DEPT FOR WHA/CAN

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SUBJECT: INTERPOL SECGEN NOBLE'S MONTREAL VISIT;
SURVEYS CITY FOR POTENTIAL TRAINING CENTER SITE

¶1. Summary. CONGEN Montreal FSN Investigator and DHS/ICE Agent represented post at the March 31 conference luncheon hosted by Conseil des Relations Internationales de Montreal (CORIM) in honor of Interpol Secretary General (SG) Ronald ¶K. Noble. In remarks on the conference theme "Threats to International Security and Challenges to International Police Cooperation", Noble lauded Canada for its work in the fight against terrorism. Addressing suggestions by some Americans that Canada is a superhighway for terrorists, Noble responded, "If it's been said that Canada is a superhighway, I would say they got it half right: Canada is super, but it's not a highway." Noble also surveyed the city for potential sites for a new INTERPOL training center, including the former Mirabel Airport. End summary.

¶2. FSNI and DHS/ICE Agent (the latter represented the Consulate at the City of Montreal table) attended the CORIM luncheon held in honor of Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble. RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli, who mentioned the 10th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, introduced SG Noble, noting that he is the first Interpol Secretary General to visit Canada since 1990.

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¶3. Noble's remarks emphasized that Canada works hard in the fight against terrorism. The former New York University law professor and one-time U.S. Department of Treasury Chief Law Enforcement Officer, on his first visit to Canada since taking office four years ago, said that Canada has played a key role in promoting co-operative policing. He emphasized the importance of internationally integrated policing, and praised the RCMP's implementation of this model of policing. Noble stressed that cooperation is necessary in order to overcome all barriers. He added that coordination of public safety depends on police cooperation in order to not only address global threats, but also to protect citizens because what affects one affects all. Citing the example of bio-terrorism, he said the problem requires expertise from a variety of fields including scientific, health and academic communities. To illustrate his point, Noble referred to a "missed opportunity" by law enforcement: when the President of Serbia was assassinated. It was later discovered that the accused killer had entered the country using a passport that had been part of 100 blank Croatian passports that had been stolen four years prior to the assassination. The passport revealed extensive travel and contained twenty-six different stamps. Noble suggested that had the stolen blanks been reported to Interpol, they could have prevented them from being used by those who wish to do harm. He stressed that one cannot focus solely on terrorism, but that information must be shared about "petty" crimes as well, such as theft, as it is sometimes these seemingly insignificant acts that are precursors to major crimes.

¶4. Passports remain a primary Interpol concern. He reported there are approximately 6 million stolen passports in Interpol's database, but 20 million stolen passports are believed to be in circulation. Although 70 countries are sharing passport information with Interpol, Noble feels that more countries should be cooperating in tracking them. To further elaborate on this point, Noble referred to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing in New York. He said the man convicted for a key role in the bombing had entered the country using a stolen Iraqi passport. He suggested that because two countries don't necessarily have the best relationship, doesn't mean that they should not cooperate to prevent acts of terrorism. At the same time, he emphasized that neither the entry into the US by this individual nor those of the 19 hijackers involved in the 9/11/2001 terrorist acts in the United States were made through Canada.

¶5. Noble also stated that when Osama Bin Laden was found to be behind attacks in Libya, that Libyan officials requested Interpol assistance in issuing a worldwide wanted notice. Thus, regardless of diplomatic situations, Noble believes it is a moral obligation for all countries to report possible threats. He suggested a global communication system for police would be useful. He said Canada has contributed

significantly to this effort by being the first in the world to implement Interpol's communication model, "I-24/7", and to train foreign police forces in its use.

16. Noble recognized people who work on the front line: not only at the borders and airports but also members of parliament and other institutions. He stated the "need-to-know" theory of information sharing is outdated and makes the world more vulnerable to attack. He said terrorists are planning for their next attack now, and that Interpol has the documents to that demonstrate their will, goals and intended methods. On the optimistic side, Noble pointed to the cooperation among nations and the world response to the tsunami disaster in southeast Asia as an example of how

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parties can work together.

17. DHS/ICE agent, seated at the City of Montreal table, spoke at length with city officials. While local media (notably The Montreal Gazette and La Presse) reported that RCMP Commissioner Zaccardelli escorted SecGen Noble to survey Mirabel Airport as a potential site for a new Interpol training center, DHS/ICE agent reports that an advisor to the Mayor's office said Noble was supportive of the idea of the institute in Montreal, but was not fond of the Mirabel site, and instead favored a more urban site for the center near other universities. Subsequent media accounts, quoting Montreal executive committee member Georges Bosse, report that the city wants to initiate a feasibility study (available by summer) on the potential Interpol training center project. He suggested that selling the project is more important than the site and, was quoted as saying, "If we decide it's important to include a university campus, we would get closer to downtown Montreal. Bosse expects to meet with Quebec Deputy Premier and Public Security Minister Jacques Dupuis this week on the matter.

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